

HOUSE RESOLUTION 251
By Briley

A RESOLUTION to honor the 2002 graduates of the First Baptist Church of South Inglewood, and those recipients of the 2002 T.E. Sweeney, Sr. Scholarship.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should honor those individuals who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment, have achieved excellence in academics and in their church; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 graduates of the First Baptist Church of South Inglewood, inclusive of whom are the recipients of the 2002 T.E. Sweeney Sr., Scholarship, comprise one such group of sterling individuals who are worthy of honor for their academic achievement and involvement in church and community activities; and

WHEREAS, the scholarship ministry began as an outreach ministry of the young ladies missionary auxiliary of the church, the Young Matrons, under the able guidance of the late Reverend T.E. Sweeney, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, financial assistance was first awarded to a college student in 1967 to assist in the purchase of books and for tuition; and

WHEREAS, various benefits have been held through the years to fund the Scholarship, including I.E. Fashion Shows, banquets, children's fashion shows, the Young Ladies and Young Men's Cotillion/Beautillion, cookbook sales and music concerts; and

WHEREAS, as the members of the Young Matrons matured, the auxiliary was renamed the Senior Matrons Ministry; and in 1996 the Scholarship was named the T.E. Sweeney, Sr. Scholarship, as a lasting legacy to the life of this inimitable man; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to the effectiveness of the scholarship program, more than 80% of the graduates have gone on to complete undergraduate degrees and to become professionals in their fields of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of this year's 20 graduates are lifelong church members and active participants in such ministries as the Midwest Youth Conference, the H.K. Smith, Jr. Band, the Girl Scouts, the Inspirational and Mass Choirs, the Young Men's Christian Fellowship, and Sunday School; and

WHEREAS, the Sweeney scholarships will be presented on Sunday, May 5, 2002 at the Banquet Hall of Nashville, with educator and former church member Ms. Peggy Brown of Cleveland, Ohio being the speaker; and

WHEREAS, those dedicated students who are eligible to receive T.E. Sweeney Scholarships this year include: Lauren Ahiatis, Cortez Armstrong, Corteze Armstrong, Jeffery Barefield, Christy Boyd, Shannon Fennell, Allen Hall, IV, Dontae Jackson, Joy Jeffries, La'Trese Lacy, Natashia McFarland, Quinton Murphy, Jason Noble, Candice Owens, Leah Michelle Roberts, Deldra Spencer, La'Shay Turner, Taleesa Utley, l'Neshia Wordlaw and Tanya Watkins; and

WHEREAS, their commitment to their church, their families and their future can be categorized as nothing short of outstanding, and for their exemplary accomplishments they are most deserving of this body's commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor the 2002 graduates of the First Baptist Church of South Inglewood, commend those for their receipt of the T.E. Sweeney Scholarship, and extend to each member of this select group our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize Reverend Henry K. Smith, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of South Inglewood for his faithful service to these dedicated young people and the church congregation as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the people named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.